

Governor's Water Augmentation Council October 28, 2016 Meeting Summary

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources

Welcome and opening remarks

Chairman Tom Buschatzke called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Council members introduced themselves individually. Chairman Buschatzke also welcomed Senator Gail Griffin, Senator Steve Pierce, and Representative Lisa Otondo.

Announcement of the Online Public Comment Portal

Chairman Buschatzke noted that as a result of requests from attendees of previous meetings, the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) has recently developed an online tool that gives individuals an additional option to interact with the Council online and comment on the GWAC process. This portal can be accessed from the Arizona Water Initiative home page or by using the link below: http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/GovernorsWaterAugmentationCouncil.htm

Update of Annual Report Action Items

ADWR Deputy Assistant Director, Gerry Walker announced the efforts of ADWR to partner with the Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) to create a workshop-style training opportunity for water providers to learn and implement water loss analysis software. This software is known as "Manual 36" (M36) from the Arizona Water Works Association. The cost associated with this program is \$125,000. As part of this effort, WIFA will send out a request for a proposal from consultants in the near future. Moreover, Corporation Commissioner Andy Tobin will be meeting with WIFA and ADWR which may increase the scope of the project if the Arizona Corporation Commission decides to participate. Ms. Walker plans for the workshops to be conducted in early spring 2017.

Communication Plan Update and Discussion

Michelle Moreno, Public Information Office for ADWR, provided an outline of the Council's proposed communication plan to facilitate discussion of goals and objectives. Pursuant to Executive Order 2015-13, "The Council shall consider a communication plan for the State to accurately convey the status of its water supply resiliency and its efforts to maintain that status moving forward". Ms. Moreno then requested comments on the scope of the communication plan. Several Council members responded.

Council Member Bas Aja stated that there is a need to focus on infrastructure. Council Member Grady Gammage Jr. recommended that there should be a label on the "state water plan." Council Member Chris Camacho asked: "Since the state is focusing attention on the big-picture messaging what can we do to enhance messaging on rural areas?" Mr. Gammage also mentioned that we need to include various audiences in our communication strategy. Council Member Sarah Porter recommended adding "quality of life" to the objective and goal of the proposed plan. Council Member Pat Graham asked how the communication plan overlaps with the Drought Contingency Plan. Chairman Buschatzke responded that the Drought Contingency Plan may not be something for the GWAC's communication plan to

address at this point.

Ms. Moreno summarized the Council's comments by the following: "We want to be sure that we don't try to take on too many messages at once. We want to focus on the work that the council is doing and keep a clear direction of how the council will move forward. This isn't just about economic development, but it is also about quality of life. We will include a broad range of strategies, not just desalination."

Committee Reports

Council Member Bob Lotts reported a summary of the progress of the Desalination Committee which can be found on the ADWR webpage:

http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/documents/MeetingSummary9.20.16.pdf

Council Member Spencer Kamps reported for the Finance Committee on behalf of its chair, Rick Lavis. The committee requested that ADWR gather information on augmentation projects that are feasible options for the state. The ADWR staff will present their findings to the committee at their next meeting.

Council Member Maureen George volunteered to lead a committee that investigates water augmentation opportunities other than desalination. Details regarding this committee will be discussed during the GWAC meeting in December.

Update on Planning Area Process

Ms. Walker, presented on the current status of the Active Planning Areas in the State. The presentation may be viewed on the GWAC webpage:

http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/documents/10.28.16_GWAC_.pdf

Chairman Buschatzke asked if there were any questions from the Council. Council Member Bas Aja asked, "Since ADWR data does not show this precipitous drop in depth to groundwater, what are the fears of the residents in these Planning Areas?" The Chair responded by saying that residents are concerned about declining groundwater levels in the future. Council Member Craig Sullivan stated that he has attended many of the Planning Area meetings and thanked ADWR for their efforts through the Planning Area process. He added that the data obtained through this process will be helpful. Chairman Buschatzke said that ADWR will continue to report on the data and happenings with the Planning Areas at upcoming GWAC meetings. Vice chair Hunter Moore asked ADWR believes there's a good cross-section of people from each Planning Area, or if staff thinks there's a need to delve deeper into other segments of the populations? Ms. Walker responded that the ADWR has reached out to all major water use-sectors and some are attending the meetings, however, there is need to increase stakeholder participation (i.e., speaking at meetings).

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Staff Presentation on Reclaimed and Reused Water

Principal Hydrogeologist of ADEQ, Chuck Graf, presented on the status, opportunities and challenges for

wastewater reuse in Arizona which can be viewed on the ADWR webpage using this link:
http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/documents/10.28.16_GWAC_.pdf

Presentation highlights include the number of wastewater treatment plants in the state and the percentage of those using these plants for aquifer recharge; wastewater treatment standards; the disposition of treated wastewater; and key stakeholder concerns.

Council Member Ron Doba inquired as to the available information addressing water quality standards as they pertain to direct potable reuse. Council Member John Kmiec added that the Water Resource Association of Arizona in conjunction with ADEQ staff has been working on a project involving a steering committee on Arizona potable reuse. In a partnership with the National Water Resource Institute, a guidebook is currently being developed that allows the state to have reference material to address potable reuse and should be published before the end of the year.

Council Member Sarah Porter asked what the threshold community size would be to implement reuse technology? Mr. Graff responded that the small communities typically cannot afford the technology and the operator certification programs for such mechanisms that produce direct potable reuse are not in our current plans at the moment.

Council Member Sandy Fabritz and Chairman Buschatzke noted that the numbers and definitions of potable reuse are not consistent between ADWR and ADEQ, and suggested that this could be a challenge undertaken by a Reclaimed Water Committee. Council Member John Kmiec will serve as chair. Chairman Buschatzke suggested that the reuse recommendations addressed by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Water Sustainability may be a good starting point for the new committee to review.

Public Comments

Sandy Bahr, Grand Canyon Chapter Director of the Sierra Club, voiced her appreciation of the public portal. She emphasized the need for the state to acknowledge the impact of climate change in the planning process for water augmentation. Chairman Buschatzke explained that the drought contingency planning efforts have included figures that project climate change effects in Arizona and that it is not a factor that is being ignored. He added that the communication of the state's considerations of climate change, internally and externally, could be improved.

Mark Day commented that water conservation should be at the forefront of the Council's planning process. Chairman Buschatzke clarified that the first annual report from the Council in July 2016 focused on water conservation potential and past projects. That report can be found here:
http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/documents/2016GWACAnnualReport_Final_July_1.pdf

Water conservation potential unique to specific regions is also currently being discovered and linked between the Planning Area stakeholder process and the Council itself.

Closing Remarks

The next GWAC meeting will be held at ADWR's office at 1110 West Washington St., Suite 3175, Phoenix, AZ 85007. The meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Friday, December 9th.